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Dockets Management Branch

FDA

300 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Room 102

Cotton Annex

Washington D.C. 20250-3700

RE: Docket No. 00N-5040

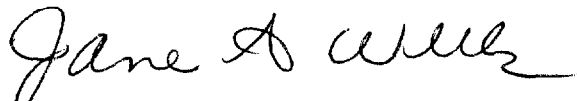
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to your department with respect to the recent outbreak of Salmonella Enteritidis in hens and eggs. Apparently, the FDA's Egg Safety plan does not address the primary causes of this infection – which are gross overcrowding, unsanitary conditions where hens are kept, and brutally inhumane treatment which includes forced molting which suppresses the immune system and makes hens susceptible to Salmonella infections as their eggs are being formed in their ovaries. Forced molting is an appalling method utilizing starvation for 5 – 14 days designed to manipulate egg laying for economic reasons profits. There is absolutely NO concern for the welfare of these pitiful creatures who must endure cramped cages, debeaking, starvation, and are subject to extreme physical harm from other hens due to the extreme over crowding. The factory farming methods used in the poultry industry is animal abuse at its worst.

The FDA needs to address these conditions and use it's power to begin to implement more humane methods of raising poultry, these are feeling, thinking sentient creatures, they are not objects or trash, as they are thought to be by so many people. They provide food and profits for millions of people, and get nothing in return except brutal, callous treatment and the right to live a miserable, unimaginable existence.

The USDA has already conceded that forced molting is a primary cause of Salmonella poisoning in eggs – please use your power to ban forced molting. As a US citizen and taxpayer whose taxes go to pay FDA salaries, I must insist that I do not approve of the manner in which the FDA, or USDA for that matter sanctions the appalling methods of factory farming in general.

Thank you for your time, I look forward to hearing from you.



Jane A. Wells

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